



**State Representative
Doug Ericksen**

401 John. L O'Brien Building
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

42nd District Jobs and Economy Update

From Representative Doug Ericksen

Dear Friends,

While the rest of the nation is beginning to experience economic recovery, Washington's economy is still struggling to rebound. Unlike the rest of the nation, many families in our state are still working to find and keep good jobs.

While the 2003 session adopted some positive reforms to help improve our economy, there is still much to be done to ease the burden of job providers and ensure jobs return to our state. It is vitally important for the Legislature to continue the work we began last session to enhance our economy and get citizens back to work.

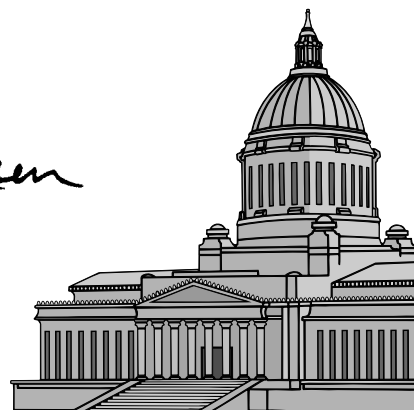
Residents of Whatcom County know all too well that rural communities such as ours have been especially hard hit by our state's economic downturn. When the 2004 session convenes in January, I will again be focusing on improving Washington's business climate and creating a stable business environment for our state's job providers and the families they employ.

I am committed to working with Whatcom County citizens and business leaders to discuss issues that are hindering our economy's recovery. Stay tuned for more information on a Whatcom County business roundtable meeting I am working to put together.

I will also be holding a series of no-host coffee hours throughout the 42nd District in January. I hope you'll take a few minutes out of your day and share your views with me. It helps me to better represent you when I know your opinion on the issues important to you.

Sincerely,

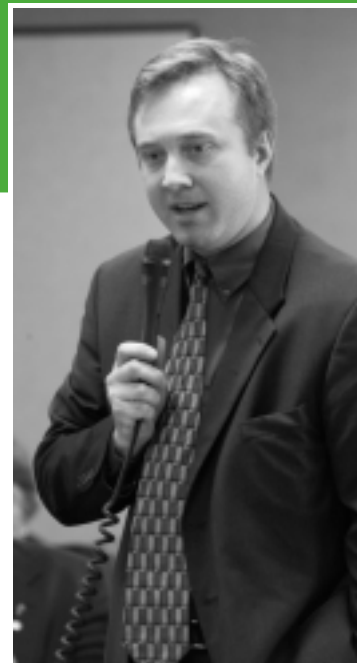
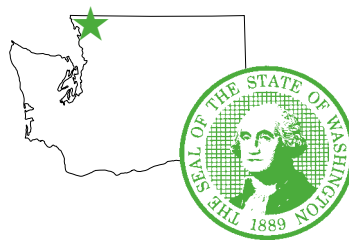
Doug Ericksen
State Representative
42nd Legislative District



Rep. Doug Ericksen
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42nd District Jobs and Economy Update



STATE ECONOMY FACTS:

- ❖ From December 2000 to October 2002:
 - ✓ 44,400 manufacturing jobs were lost
 - ✓ 32,400 retail and trade jobs were lost
 - ✓ 24,800 jobs were lost in the service industry
- ❖ From July 1999 to November 2002, Washington suffered a net loss of 157,500 jobs.
- ❖ Washington's unemployment rate, currently at 7 percent, has remained one of the three highest in the nation.
- ❖ Real per capita income, a key indicator of the state's economic performance, has declined in 7 of the last 12 quarters. It declined from \$29,843 at the beginning of 2000 to a low of \$28,808 by the end of 2001.
- ❖ Washington manufacturing jobs are expected to decline from a peak of more than 381,000 in the second quarter to 1998 to about 296,000 at the end of 2004.
- ❖ Aerospace-related manufacturing is expected to lose more than 49,000 jobs between the second quarter of 1998 and the end of 2004.

JOB MAKER BILLS ADOPTED IN 2003 SESSION

- ❖ State budget passed without new taxes
- ❖ Tax incentives for job creation
- ❖ Reforming unemployment insurance laws
- ❖ Reducing workers compensation system costs
- ❖ Building roads and infrastructure

**From Rep.
Doug
Ericksen**

NO HOST "COFFEE WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR"



Bellingham

Thursday, January 8, 2004
7:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.
Little Cheerful Cafe
133 E. Holly Street
360-738-8824

Blaine

Friday, January 9, 2004
7:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.
International Café
758 Peace Portal Drive
360-332-6035



Ferndale

Saturday, January 10, 2004
7:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.
Mounts Cafe
1860 Main Street
360-380-4638